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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/232,049	01/15/1999	MASAYUKI SATO	FUJA-15.799	2308

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EXAMINER

VAUGHN JR, WILLIAM C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

23

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/232,049

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

William C. Vaughn, Jr.

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 23.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in regards to the Amendment and Response received on 08 June 2004 as well as 20 October 2004.

2. Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Hisayoshi (JP0 6-303288).

5. Regarding claim 4, Hisayoshi teaches a system of racing control in systems management by CMIP operations defined by an OSI model for switching systems, provided with, an execution status table (operation registration table) storing information of operations now being executed (page 3 of 4, [0032]), and a rivalry table (racing control table) (page 3 of 4, [0032]) with information of whether or not operations may be executed. The rivalry table is in a form that requires cross-referencing (page 3 of 4, [0033-0034]; this suggests the table is in the form of a matrix, of operations under investigation (newly requested) and the CMIP operations in the execution status table (now being executed) (Page 3 of 4, [0033-0034]). Matrix is taken to mean an array of commands or input values and outputs. Hisayoshi further discloses an information analysis means (first means) for extracting commands from command groups (operations) from the execution status table, a means (second means) for investigating (determining) whether or not the MOI of operations being executed and operations being requested are different or the same,

Art Unit: 2143

and a command delivery means (third means) for determining whether the requested operations can be executed by referring to the rivalry table (page 3 of 4, [0033-0034]). All of Hisayoshi's elements are equivalent to those claimed. Thus, it is clear that Hisayoshi reads on the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1,8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hisayoshi (J-PO No. 6-303288) and Moeller (U.S. Pat. No. 5,519,867).

8. Regarding Claim 1, Hisayoshi teaches a method of racing control in system management including the steps of determining, regarding CMIP commands (operations), whether or not managed object instances (MOI) of operations are different or the same. Hisayoshi performs racing control while treating commands as command groups. Hisayoshi teaches a rivalry table (racing control table) to determine whether it is possible to execute newly requested operations. Hisayoshi does not teach the use of a managed object instances in units of the smallest instance (i.e. units of processing) to carry out racing decisions. In related art object instances are implemented in units of varying degree.

9. Moeller teaches the object-oriented access to services provided by an operating system. Moeller defines an object is an instance of some class. This art teaches that a subclass is from another class and that inheritance is the mechanism by which subclasses are created for greater

Art Unit: 2143

levels of specialization (column 2, lines 30-33). Moeller defines classes that access services of an operating system including, thread classes, synchronization classes, inter process communication classes and virtual memory classes (column 3, lines 59-67 and column 4, lines 1-22). Thus, According to Moeller, subclasses can be created from these parent classes resulting in more specialized and subsequently smaller units of instances of each class.

10. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the managed objects taught by Hisayoshi in view of Moeller and define objects as units of even the smallest instance, in order to optimize race control for an increased number of instances.

11. Regarding claim 8, Hisayoshi teaches a correspondence table with command ID and corresponding MOI (page 3 of 4, [0034]). Hisayoshi also teaches a containment tree that shows the hierarchy of actual resource matched with MOI (page 1 of 4, [0013]). The correlation found between the correspondence table (command ID) and containment tree (MOI of resources) anticipate a racing control unit structured based on the identity of expressions (instances) of resources to be controlled. Hisayoshi bases an equivalent system set forth in claim 5 on commands and command groups, whereby the command IDs stored in the correspondence table were the IDs of commands and command groups. Hisayoshi's commands and command groups correlate with groups of MOI of resources to be controlled from the containment tree.

12. Therefore, the combination of Hisayoshi's teachings regarding this claim and Moeller's teachings of more specialized, smaller instances of objects renders obvious a racing unit structured based on the identity or the resemblance of categories of resources to be controlled. Hisayoshi further teaches referencing a rivalry table Hisayoshi's rivalry table is based on

Art Unit: 2143

commands (classification of control) and command groups (groups of classification of control). This element of the claim is anticipated because the applicant shows the classification of control as groupings of commands or verbs in figures 5A & 5B. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hisayoshi in view of Moeller to structure a racing control unit to determine whether or not newly requested operations may be executed, based on the identity of expressions of resources to be controlled. It is obvious because by reduction of overhead gained by solely referencing the identity and not all elements of an instance would improve efficiency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. Claims 2-3, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hisayoshi (JPO No. 6-303288) and Moeller (U.S. Pat. No. 5,519,867) in view of what was well known in the art.

14. Regarding claims 2-3, Hisayoshi also teaches a containment tree of MOI (external expressions) that establishes correspondence between MOI of operations and their actual resources [0013]. Hisayoshi invention discloses management comprising CMIP commands and environmental application section operations both OSI and non-OSI. [0001]. This is taken to mean that Hisayoshi addresses newly requested operations under CMIP and operations inherent to the system. Hisayoshi does not teach the use of external expressions in units of smallest instance (i.e. units of processing). The applicant defines external expression to be equivalent with object instance (page 18, line 36). Hisayoshi does not teach determining the possibility of execution of operation on a common racing table formed based on combinations of classification of control of operations inherent to the system. However, it would have been obvious to one of

Art Unit: 2143

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hisayoshi to base the common racing control table on the classification of control of operation inherent to the system. The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that as a system encounters inputs with multiple classifications of operations, distinct decision or truth tables, consisting of narrowly defined associative sets of variables, may be referenced in order improve system efficiency and determine an appropriate output. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill that the combination of Hisayoshi and Moeller implemented in accordance with standard programming practices would result in claims 2-3 since decision and truth tables are routinely utilized to make efficient output determinations.

15. Regarding Claim 5, Hisayoshi discloses an execution status table as noted above. Hisayoshi also teaches a rivalry table and correspondence table (common racing control table) establishing correspondence between CMIP commands and OSI and non-OSI operations (page 3 of 4, [0031]). As noted above Hisayoshi teaches the means of extracting operations now being executed (first means), determining if the operations now being executed and newly requested are the same (second means), and a contention control/command delivery means for determining whether the newly requested operation may be executed by referring a rivalry table (common racing control table) (third means) (page 3 of 4, [0043-0044]).

16. However Hisayoshi is silent as to the teachings of MOI (external expression) of the smallest instance corresponding to the MOI of newly requested operations. These additional elements would be further obvious from the teachings on Hisayoshi's correspondence and rivalry table and Moeller's teachings of more specialized, smaller instances of objects. Thus, the

Art Unit: 2143

combination of Hisayoshi and Moeller would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as noted above regarding claims 2-3.

17. Regarding claims 6-7, as noted above Hisayoshi teaches a rivalry table and correspondence table (common racing control table) that establish correspondence of groups of CMIP operations and OSI and non-OSI operations. Hisayoshi does not teach storing information of whether newly requested operations may be executed in the form of combinations of classification of operations now being executed and classifications of newly requested operations. However, the OFFICIAL NOTICE taken regarding claims 2-3, renders obvious the use of classifications of operations as now being executed, newly requested, or classification of control of newly requested operations as variables in such a table. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hisayoshi to form a rivalry and correspondence table (common racing control table) that stores information of whether newly requested operations may be executed in the form of combinations of the classification of operation now being executed and classifications of newly requested operations. Because discriminating and referencing only the pertinent associative sets of input variables in a table further increases the efficiency of making output determinations.

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments filed on 28 October 2003 have been carefully considered but they are not deemed fully persuasive. However, because there exists the likelihood of future presentation of this argument, the Examiner thinks that it is prudent to address applicants' main points of contention.

Art Unit: 2143

- a. Applicant states that the method includes the steps of a) determining whether or not a currently managed object instance of CMIP operations and a managed object instance for a newly-requested CMIP operation are the same, b) when the instances are different, allowing the execution of the newly-requested CMIP operation, and c) when the instances are the same, referring to a racing control table based on a combination of operation classifications to determine whether or not managed object instances of current and newly requested operations are the same.
 - b. Applicant also argues that Hisayoshi fails to disclose or otherwise suggest racing control based on determining whether or not managed object instances of current and newly-requested operation are the same.
 - c. Applicant asserts that Hisayoshi and Moeller do not teach or suggest performing race control between CMIP operations in units of instance.
 - d. Applicant states that no motivation is provided in the combination of Hisayoshi and Moeller.
19. As to "Point A", that the method includes the steps of a) determining whether or not a currently managed object instance of CMIP operations and managed object instance for a newly-requested CMIP operation are identical. It is the Examiner's position that Hisayoshi teaches the rivalry table, which is able to judge whether or not, command execution is in rivalry by investigating whether it is under execution with reference to an execution status table. Hisayoshi also teaches that an execution status table shows the status of each command under execution for every group of commands to which the command belongs too [see Hisayoshi, section 0032]. Further with regards to neither of the references teaching racing controls. It is the examiner's

Art Unit: 2143

position that as taught within Applicant's own specification that the racing control means is simply a database used regarding internal commands [see Applicant's specification, page 9, lines 20-30]. Thus, it is clear to the Examiner that Hisayoshi and Moeller teach in combination reference to internal commands as well as referring to a table within a CMIP environment [see Hisayoshi, section 0030-0032].

20. As to "Point B", see response to Point A above.

21. As to "Point C", the Applicant argues that Hisayoshi and Moeller do not teach or suggest performing race control between CMIP operations in units of instance. Hisayoshi teaches in combination with Moeller teaches an object-oriented access services that defines an object is an instance of some class. Moeller teaches that a subclass is from another class and that inheritance is the mechanism by which subclasses are created form greater levels of specialization [see Moeller, Col. 2, lines 30-33].

22. As to "Point D", of applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, as stated above, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hisayoshi in view of Moeller to structure a racing control unit to determine whether or not newly requested operations may be executed, based on the identity of expressions of resources to be controlled. It is obvious because by reduction of

Art Unit: 2143

overhead gained by solely referencing the identity and not all elements of an instance would improve efficiency. Furthermore, it would provide a mechanism that would enable object-oriented application to interact in an object-oriented manner [see Moeller, Col. 3, lines 30-36].

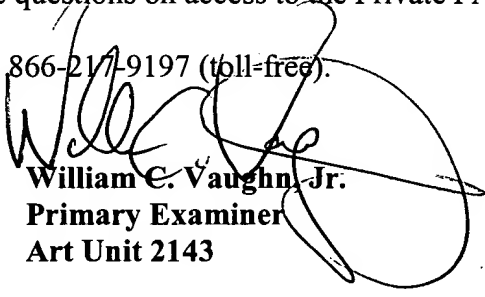
23. Also, Applicant's response to the 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph has overcome the rejection.

Conclusion

24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Vaughn, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3922. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-6:00, 1st and 2nd Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. The fax number for the Examiner is 571-273-3922.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William C. Vaughn, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2143

WCV